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MONTEREY NEWS

May, 1979

O U R T O W N

Highlights of Town Meetng, May 1979

The Town Budget remained relatively stable overall with the exception of (1) the School Budget, which rose considerably (2) a $7,000 addition to the allotment for last year's Snow and Sand Account, which will be reflected in this years's tax rate, and (3) a large appropriation for a new fire truck (details below).

Recommendations by Fire Chief Ray Tryon for meeting the awesome purchase price of $73,625 for the new fire truck are as follows:

$15,000 from taxation, $8,625 from Free Cash, $50,000 to be borrowed by note or bond with interest not exceeding 6%.

Despite opposition by the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee to such a large and sudden expense, the Fire Department presented a coherent rationale for the purchase. Among the facts presented were these:

The tanker which formerly carried extra to fires in town has to be retired last year because of general deterioration which became a serious hazard to its drivers.

Out of a total of 530 homes in Monterey, 363 have no accessible water within 2000 feet of the house.

The present, relatively new truck now in use carries only 1000 gallons of water, that being not enough to control a substantial fire.

The proposed new truck will carry 2000 gallons, can be driven safely to the "dry area" in town, and will operate in conjunction with the vehicles now in use, both to provide an initial water supply and also to relay water from secondary sources.

The recommended method of financing the new vehicle will spread the tax burden over a period of about 5 years with a raise in the tax rate of about .59 per $1,000 valuation.

The issue of road discontinuance raised its Hydra-like head once again, first in the form of a special article to appropriate $1000 for the maintainance of (how shall we say it?) un-discontinued roads. Last year a sum of money designated for this purpose under the regular Highway Budget remained partially unspent at the end of the fiscal year and automatically reverted back into Free Cash. Money which has been appropriated in a special article, if unspent, is carried over from year to year. It was recognized that a fund needs to be built up for the purpose of bringing Monterey's little used roads up to standard. The $1000 appropriation, passed unanimously, is a start toward this end.

At the request of the Curtin family, property owners in both Tyringham and Monterey, the Selectmen asked for authority to petition the County Commissioners to discontinue a road on the Curtins' Monterey property. In addition to this road the Selectmen added two other roads of similar status which are in the same vicinity. In response to this combination of requests, gore rose in the throats of the righteous, Questions were raised about the loss or gain of both human rights and tax dollars, a lawyer stood and offered a series of opinions linked like a fine chain, and citizens popped up and down like pistons. The issue finally resolved itself around the principle of acknowledging private wishes. There being no objection by other abutters to the Curtins' request that discontinuance procedures be initiated on the road which crosses their property, this was granted by vote. The other two roads in question, about which some abutters and many townspeople remained discontent, were deleted from the motion as revised and were consigned once again to that special limbo reserved for town roads which, although they are relatively discontinuous, are nevertheless not Discontinued.

The road through the Curtin property, characterized by Peter Curtin as a road "you can't get an Indian through," is called Royal Hemlock Road and is said by Historical Commission member Edith Wilson to be the second oldest road in town. At a road discontinuance hearing in May 1978 Royal Hemlock Road was described as the "first road down which the white man walked to join the Indians."

(continued on back page)

CATHOLIC CHURCHES

Masses Schedule: Our Lady of the Valley, Sheffield, Saturday, 5:30., Sunday, 7:30, 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. Immaculate Conception, Mill River, Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Morning worship each Sunday 10:30 a.m. . . .
Notes Kindergarten also at 10:30 a.m. . . . . .

The wedding of John O'Connor and Anne Marie Keefe was on May 4 at their Garfield Lake home.

Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost is being celebrated this year on June 3. This day is commonly regarded both as the "birthday" of the church as well as celebrating the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the first two hundred years of the church Christians had only one major season of celebration. It began with the festival of the cross and resurrection and culminated fifty days later with Pentecost.

For many years in the recent history of the church Pentecost was practically disregarded. Again it is coming to be regarded as a major Christian festival. In Monterey we invite all our people to join in this joyous celebration at the 10:30 a.m. morning worship on June 3.

Monterey's Toymaker Makes an Offer

Mr. Alton Heath, affectionately known as Monterey's toymaker, has offered to fix-up "as good as new" any broken toys in town. Mr. heath is recognized by his little workshop located on the edge of the Phelps property. There is usually a truck out front he has created and is waiting to be claimed by some eager child.

Mr. Heath has offered to fix up any broken toy. He wants nothing for himself for doing it. Those who wish may make a contribution to the church. Right now would be a good time to get your toys fixed up before Mr. Heath gets into a busier summer season. Just stop by his shop and bring to him the toy you want fixed.

SPRINGTIME REVEILLE

When I awake at daybreak
And hear a robin sing
Among the apple blossoms
And lilacs in the spring,
And a soft breeze blows their fragrance
Across my window sill
I can hear the distant drumming
Of a partridge on the hill.
Where the clear notes of the oriole
Salute the warm spring air
As the brook is swiftly rushing
By green willows bending there,
I rejoice that it is springtime
And I am here to see
All these wonders of Creation
God has given you and me.

Eleanor Kimberley

TO CELEBRATE OUR COMMON LIFE

Two people became roommates in a hospital within a few days of each other. They spent nearly three weeks together. One was a Jew, the other a Christian. At first they were keenly aware of the differences between them. They had distinctly different ways of looking at life and at what they were experiencing. They recognized only one thing they shared in common. Both enjoyed talking when they were not in too great pain.

What amazed these two persons, with the passage of time, was the startling number of things they did share in common. Yet they did not discover this until they had passed through many of the superficial differences they found in each other at first. They felt similar about family. Their attitudes regarding work and community situations were very nearly alike. As the time drew near for them to part with each other, more and more areas of common interest and feeling kept appearing. Perhaps the thing that surprised them most was that as they shared together the Passover - Easter season they approached their religious traditions supposing they were dealing with two entirely different stories. They imagined, since the Passover drama and the Easter drama are such totally different sorts of stories, that they were also wholly different dimensions of the human story.

Almost unaware, as they found themselves sharing some of the experiences surrounding the celebration of these festivals, they discovered to their utter amazement that they were talking about a common major human drama. Both of these stories begin in a climate of oppression, fear, destruction and death.

Both stories end in a note of liberation celebrating the unfolding of an awesome leap into new life which was totally unexpected. Call it myth or call it history both of these stories reveal a clear dimension about our lives. If life existed without the element these stories reveal we could not begin to imagine the impoverishment. Somehow the common dimension in both of these stories revealed itself to those two persons whose life pilgrimages caused them to spend a few weeks in a hospital room together. When they went to their homes again each knew that something had happened which would make their lives forever different from when they entered the hospital. They both testified that probably the most important part of this period of their lives had been the search for better health that sent them to the hospital, but the incredible discovery of a common element in their lives they might never have discovered if they had not shared this period of pain and anxiety in each other's company.

This incident has caused me to reflect on a fact that keeps coming through to us from so many directions. Although we humans are a diverse lot, reflecting many different backgrounds and experiences, the truly amazing thing is how very many things we share in common. The religions of the world have become powerful reflectirs of the elements that bind us together into one family. I was reminded of this afresh from a recent article in the New York Times Magazine regarding the observations of Joseph Campbell, the world's leading scholar on religious mythology. Myth and symbol, he tells us, are fundamental and essential properties of all religions, "they are the special language of religious experience."

Just as a common underground stream can be the source of many wells, so Campbell believes the recurrent common themes and motifs in the varied mythologies of different cultures suggest that a single underground spring of religious experience nourishes all the world's religions. It is no accident, then, that so many religious traditions carry stories that reflect absolutely basic and fundamental ways of grappling with the common dimensions of our humanity, regardless of the more superficial differences of race, culture, economic status and religion.

Campbell, now 75 years old, believes the world is now at a time in which the peoples of the earth are being forced to deal with what we have in common much more than with what separates us from one another. In fact, he feels that the focus to which the space-age has brought us no longer permits us to act as if our destinies are separate.

This word from Campbell, we cannot fail to notice, is so very similar to the basic message of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin to whom I have frequently referred in my writin The Monterey News. Of course there are many other voices saying similar things. There does seem to be a convergence of some of the world's deepest thinkers and observers, pleading with those of us who live "out in the grass roots" that we find ways to open up more channels into the common stream from which our humanity springs. Talk about a new age is common in such circles, yet the way in which this new age is pictured as coming has so much to do with a new way of understanding what we humans are. An element in common, from whichever angle these great observers come at it, suggests that the principal ingredient is a vastly deepened and enlarged view of spiritual awareness. It is as if largely, up to this point, we have been innocent children playing around with powers that are almost entirely beyond our imagining. We are being told in so very many ways that the spiritual is resident within us all; it is powerfully and vitally linked to the whole universe, and yet we keep treating it as if it were a private little system of our own or of our group's.

Community conversations dealing with some of the implications of this viewpoint are going to begin early in June. Any who would like to join in such conversations are asked to notify me of their desire.

Virgil V. Brallier, Minister
Monterey United Church of Christ

Two newcomers have joined the staff this month, to stay through the summer. Robert Groft and Beth Kurtz trained in the same Brethren Volunteer Services group in Maryland, and then went to work for a year with the Community Service Organization, an ecumenical society in Northern Utah. Through B.V.S. they learned of Gould Farm. Beth plans next fall to attend graduate school at Notre Dame, studying psychology, which she would like to teach. Rob is entering Goshen College, a Mennonite school in Elkhart County Indiana.

On April 28, guests and staff produced an entertainment called "Willy Gould's Flying Circus", a Variety Show. With Ken Gleason as master of Ceremonies, they presented comedy skits and musical numbers. Debbie Schwartz and Paul Ancowitz played flute and piano and Richard Durham sang several solos. The Gould Farm Chorus also starred. Kara Lee Muller and Larry Abrams served excellent refreshments.

Responding to an invitation from the Womans Association of the Second Congregational Church of Winsted, Connecticut, Virgil Stucker drove Faith Colt and Rose McKee to a meeting of the group on May 2. Early slides of the Farm were shown, starting with its beginning in 1913, when William and Agnes Gould came to Monterey. Virgil Stucker gave a brief talk on the work as it is carried on today. Faith Colt was warmly greeted by old friends. The Winsted ladies promised sonn to visit the Farm.

In last weeks "Farm Yarn", Joe Burkholder has listed forty-seven work projects, some with sub-divisions, which he hopes to accomplish in the next six months. They include gardening, clearing of trails, out-door clean ups, painting of buildings, outside and in, and many maintenance jobs. Apparently no one on the Farm need suffer from an absence of things that need to be done.

Rose McKee

MONTEREY GRANGE #291

Monterey Grange met April 18th for the 1st and 2nd degrees. Deputy Alicia L Brazie made her official visitation. Guests were present from Sandisfield, Umpachene, Millsdale, Richmond, Heart of the Berkshires, and Worthington.

On May 2 the members met at the Lecturer's home at 6:30 to go to a joint meeting with Southampton Grange.

May 16 was Youth Night with youth filling the chairs and furnishing the program.

The first Pancake Breakfast will be on May 27.

Grange Week was April 22 to April 29. There was a display at the Library and the Post Office.

Sister Tillie Bolters' name was inadvertently omitted as taking part in the March 27 Program.

Mary Wallace
Lecturer

MEMORIAL DAY IN MONTEREY

The Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony will take place on Monday, May 28, beginning at 1:00 pm. The parade will form at the intersection of Sandisfield Road and Route 23. It will pass through the village stopping to place wreaths, thus memorializing those who were in the service. The climax of the ceremony will be at the flag pole in Greene Park. Refreshments for the band will be provided at the end.

This event is Monterey neighbors sharing a moment of memory. We'll see you there!

Photography - On April 7, Shawn Ryder competed in the State Visual Presentations in Bolton, Massachusetts. There, with his excellent display of photographic knowledge, Shawn captured the win. Now he waits and hopes that he will be accepted to go to the National Visual Presentations.

Great Barrington Camera Club - This month, the Camera Club held their annual dinner at the Egremont Country Club. A beautiful roast beef dinner was served to the Camera Club members while they enjoyed a lovely slide presentation.

BOY SCOUTS

Cub Scouts - On the two Thursdays before spring vacation, the scouts were allowed free use of the pool at the Kolburne School. On May 17, the Cub Scouts enjoyed an afternoon at Woodburn Farm, Owned by Sheldoh Fenn. Also, before the Mother's Day festivities, the Cubs made gifts to give to their mothers on May 13. The troop has planned a picnic at Beartown State Forest on June 1.

Webelos - Awards is the key word in Mrs. Smith's Webelos troop this month. Kirven Blount received his Travelers Badge and Shawn Smith of Mill River received an Aquanaut Badge.

GIRL SCOUTS

Brownies - On April 26, the Brownies discussed the Brownie B patch and they filled out the chart listing all the activities done by the troop this year which qualifies each girl to receive this patch.

They set the date May 24 for their annual Court of Awards covered dish supper. The fly-up ceremony for Jeanna Blanchard and Nancy Bynack will also be held at that time.

On Saturday April 28, the Brownies took part in the Town Clean-Up. They did New Marlboro Road and Wellman Road working Sheldon Fenn and doing a super job.

At their next meeting the girls created their own invitations for the Court of Awards dinner. Each girl made on very special invitation for her own family.

This week the younger girls made family place cards for the tables at the dinner. The older girls worked with Maureen Bradley on some of the requirements for the Bridge to Juniors patch.

Girl Scouts - Currently the Girl Scouts are working towards the Court of Awards. They will be participating in the covered dish supper with the Brownies also. While finishing up on their badges, the troop traveled to Clayton to participate in the Flying up ceremony with Brownie troop 352.

YOUTH GROUP

This month the Youth Group participated in the Walk for Hunger sponsored by the Harvest of Hope of Stockbridge. The entire Youth group took part in this walk and more than two hundred dollars on this project. Due to Dr. Brallier's vacation, the Youth Group had several interruptions in their meeting but are now back to their regular schedule. Now that Spring is here, the group is working on more activities that involve the outdoors. Also, the group is working on a major project that involves a trip to Warner Farm in Cummington, Massachusetts after school has ended for the summer.

Youth Editor,
Kevin Bradley

(OUR TOWN continued from page 1.)
If in fact Royal Hemlock road is discontinued, the Town of Monterey will retain the Right of Way theron, so that whoever can squeeze through, going whichever way, is welcome and legally entitled to do so.

Jed Peter Lipsky was elected to fill the vacancy created by Tom Bradley upon his retirement from the Board of Selectmen. At the regular meeting of the Selectmen, Monday May 7, Stefan Grotz was elected Chairman of the Board and Jed Lipsky was elected Board of Health Officer.

The Monterey Fire Department would like to thank the town for their vote of confidence on Town Meeting Day. The Summer Training Program is set up and there is a call for new members. Meetings are every Wednesday night at 7;00 at the Fire Hall.

MONTEREY FOOD CO OP

The Monterey Food Co op welcomes new members. Open to the community, surplus sales of food and Mass. Dept. of Ag. Garden Seeds at considerable savings. Every 2 week beginning May 31, 5;30 P.M. - 7;00 P.M.

A C K N O W L E D G M E N T S

This month we are deeply indebted to the following persons for their contributions; William Bell, Thomas Bradley, William & Raymond Kirby, Sylvia Kleban, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Race.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T S

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